

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 432 425

RC 022 034

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TITLE Homes for Wildlife: A Planning Guide for Habitat Enhancement on School Grounds.
INSTITUTION New Hampshire State Fish and Game Dept., Concord.
ISBN ISBN-0-9652156-2-8
PUB DATE 1998-00-00
NOTE 237p.
AVAILABLE FROM New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, 2 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301 (\$18.95, plus \$2.50 shipping and handling).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Guides - Non-Classroom (055)
EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Class Activities; *Educational Facilities Planning; Elementary Education; *Environmental Education; Experiential Learning; *Habitats; Integrated Curriculum; *Outdoor Education; Program Development; *Site Development; Wildlife; *Wildlife Management
IDENTIFIERS *School Yards

ABSTRACT

This guide for enhancing wildlife habitats on school grounds provides students and teachers the opportunity for direct, hands-on learning in the environment of their schoolyard. Geared towards grades K-8, all activities are developmentally appropriate to involve students on every level, resulting in student ownership of the project and a greater understanding of wildlife. The guide is divided into sections that correspond to the phases of planning and maintaining a schoolyard wildlife enhancement project. Each chapter includes background information, "how to" instructions and tools, supplemental multidisciplinary student activities, references, and checklists. The first section covers pre-activities and familiarizes students and teachers with the project, wildlife needs, and how they are combined to provide habitat. The second section is a planning guide that explains how to analyze conditions in the schoolyard and how to use this information in the plan. Section 3 contains suggestions for a variety of habitat enhancement projects, and guidelines for developing and implementing the enhancement plan. Section 4 presents guidelines for maintenance plans, as well as activity ideas for the outdoor classroom on the schoolyard site. Section 5 consists of 11 appendices: a glossary, sample maps, New England habitat types and associated wildlife, wildlife food charts, planting charts and plant care, construction specifications for nest boxes, resource agencies, selected instructional resources, sources of supplies, worksheets, and activities and ideas for the outdoor classroom. (TD)

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